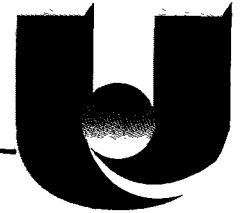


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September 11, 2003

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Honorable Bryant L. Van Brakle
Secretary
Federal Maritime Commission
800 North Capitol Street, N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20573

U.S. SECRETARY
FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

United Shipping

Local People. Worldwide Trust.

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RE: Petition of National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America, Inc.
for a Limited Exemption from Certain Tariff Requirements of the Shipping Act of 1984.

Dear Secretary Van Brakle,

My name is Sandra Thomas, Vice President of Operations for Medallion Shipping Lines d/b/a United Shipping Lines. United Shipping is a network of Custom Brokers and Freight Forwarders, NVOCC License Number 8577N. We currently have 30 Partners here in the United States, 3 Partners in Canada, 1 in Mexico and 44 Partners overseas. Each Office is locally owned and operated.

The approximate cost entailed in:

1. Establishing a tariff website. All of our tariff filings are done online thru World Tariff Services.
2. The annual cost of subscribing to a tariff publishing service. \$948.00
3. The approximate number of hours and costs spent each month in maintaining the tariff website or making changes to tariff. Approximately 60 hours/month. \$400.00/month.
4. These costs are not assessed to persons seeking to access the tariff.
5. Medallion Shipping Lines d/b/a United Shipping Lines is not able to track the number of times shippers or other persons have accessed our tariff.

The company's costs that are related directly or indirectly to rate tariff compliance is approximately \$1300.00 per month. Tariff rates are not useful to our company or the Partners of United Shipping because the shippers don't access or rely on NVOCC rate tariffs. Rates are negotiated with shippers and flexibility is required because rates are negotiated with the steamship lines, whether cost savings associated with being exempted from publishing rate tariffs would be passed along to customers.

I, Sandra Thomas, declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Further I certify that I am qualified and authorized to file this verified statement.

Executed on September 11, 2003

Sandra Thomas

Sandra Thomas

7000 Broadway, #405
Denver, CO, USA 80221-2926
TEL: (1) 303-426-7555
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